

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 USPS-01 ORM-01 SCS-03

CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-07 FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

OC-05 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, ETEL, FR, HK, VS

SUBJECT: MAIL SERVICE TO SOUTH VIET-NAM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES FROM BOTH AMERICAN CITIZENS AND VIETNAMESE PERMANENT RESIDENTS AND REFUGEES HERE REGARDING HOW THEY MIGHT CORRESPOND WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. US POSTAL SERVICE
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(USPS) INTERNATIONAL DIVISION HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THAT OF FRANCE AND HONG KONG, IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND A ROUTE FOR MAIL TO BE DELIVERED TO SOUTH VIET-NAM. THE USPS UNDER-

STANDS FROM ITS COUNTERPARTS THAT NO COUNTRY HAS YET RE-ESTABLISHED MAIL SERVICE TO SOUTH VIET-NAM. ACCORDING TO USPS, QUERIES FROM THE HONG KONG POSTAL ADMINISTRATION TO BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIET-NAM, ASKING FOR ROUTING SUGGESTIONS AND SPECIFICALLY ASKING IF MAIL TO SOUTH VIET-NAM COULD BE SENT VIA HANOI, HAVE NOT BEEN ANSWERED BY THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES. USPS ALSO REPORTS THAT MAIL SERVICE TO NORTH VIET-NAM HAS CONTINUED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

2. ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSEES CAN DEVELOP IN SUPPORT OF USPS EFFORTS WITH FRENCH AND HONG KONG AUTHORITIES WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. FOR EXAMPLE:

A. DO EITHER FRENCH OR HONG KONG AUTHORITIES HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT POSTAL SERVICE TO SOUTH VIET-NAM -- EITHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT -- WILL BE RE-ESTABLISHED IN NEAR FUTURE?

B. IS IT POSSIBLE FOR PERSONS IN EITHER COUNTRY TO CORRESPOND WITH PARTIES IN SOUTH VIET-NAM? IF SO, HOW?

C. HAS MAIL DESTINED FOR SOUTH VIETNAMESE AREAS BUT MARKED FOR ROUTING THROUGH HANOI BEEN ACCEPTED AND/OR DELIVERED BY NORTH VIET-NAM?

D. DOES EITHER GOVERNMENT SEE PROBLEMS IN RE-ESTABLISHING POSTAL SERVICE TO SOUTH VIET-NAM BEYOND THE TECHNICAL PROBLEM OF HOW TO TRANSPORT THE MAIL INTO SOUTH VIET-NAM?

3. CONTRARY TO SOME PRESS REPORTS, US HAS NOT "EMBARGOED"

MAIL TO SOUTH VIET-NAM. CURRENT SUSPENSION OF MAIL SERVICES FROM THE US TO SAIGON IS ESSENTIALLY THE RESULT OF THE ENDING OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INTO SOUTH VIET-NAM AND THE FAILURE OF THE NEW AUTHORITIES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SAIGON TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS AS TO HOW THE MAIL SHOULD BE DELIVERED. USPS IS PREPARED TO RESUME MAIL SERVICE TO SOUTH VIET-NAM AS SOON AS RELIABLE DELIVERY MEANS ARE ESTABLISHED. INGERSOLL

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